



**North
West
Water**

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
Telephone Penketh 4321

3rd January, 1978.

To: Members of the Eden and District
Fisheries Advisory Committee
(Messrs. E. P. Ecroyd (Chairman);
A. E. I. Bell; E. Cave; T. Cousins;
Dr. I. J. Faulkner; A. C. Findlay;
E. H. Fleming Smith; L. Heyworth;
B. Irving; J. S. Marshall;
Wm. McKenna; R. K. Nicholson; and
the Chairman of the Authority
(P. J. Liddell) (ex officio)).

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the EDEN AND DISTRICT FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE will be held at 2.30 p.m. on TUESDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 1978, at the NORTH CUMBRIA AREA OFFICE of the RIVERS DIVISION, CHERTSEY HILL, LONDON ROAD, CARLISLE, for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully,

G. W. SHAW,

Director of Administration.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated).
3. Fisheries Income and Expenditure.
4. Regional Water Resources Study.
5. Salmon Fishing - Close Season.
6. Radioactive Discharges and Fishery Interests.
7. Castle Carrock Reservoir - possible access of public for angling.
8. Report by Area Fisheries Officer on Fisheries Activities.
9. Recreation on Authority-owned waters.
10. Any Other Business.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

EDEN AND DISTRICT
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10TH JANUARY 1977

FISHERIES INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

1. The final recommendations of the Regional Committee, subsequently approved by the Policy and Resources Committee and confirmed by the Authority are set out in Appendix I hereto.
2. The formal statutory procedures for implementation of the proposals have been put in hand.
3. As will be seen from recommendation (9) in Appendix I the question of an increase in the net licence duties was deferred and the Committee's views are requested.
4. The current licence duties in force throughout the region were approved by the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food in October last and became effective on 1st January, 1978. They represent a 30% increase overall on the then existing duties. Details of these current licence duties are given in Appendix II.

RECOMMENDED:

(1) That in calculating the income to be received from fishing licence duties, primary regard be given to the cost of licensing and enforcement.

(2) That whereas the cost of licensing and enforcement is estimated at 56% of fisheries expenditure, in 1979 licence duties be fixed so as to recover an estimated 40% of the total fisheries expenditure. (The income from the adoption of the following recommendations is estimated at £284,000 for 1979).

(3) That there be only two rod licences (plus concessionary licences) from 1st January 1979 throughout the Region.

(4) (a) That the following be eligible for concessionary licences:-

- (i) man aged 65 or over
- (ii) woman aged 60 or over
- (iii) juniors aged 10 to 16 years inclusive, provided that a nil duty be applied until the age of 14 years is attained.

(b) That following consultation with the National Council for the Disabled, the present system of issuing temporary licences be continued to cater for disabled anglers.

(5) That the system of issuing seven day rod licences be continued.

(6) That licence duties be introduced for commercial eel fishing.

(7) That the scale of licence duties be as follows:-

Salmon, migratory trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and char

Whole area	£5.50
Juniors (14 to 16 years inclusive), man aged 65 or over, and woman aged 60 or over	£2.75
7 day licence	£2.75
Juniors (10 to 13 years inclusive)	Nil

Freshwater fish and eels

Whole area	£1.50
Juniors (14 to 16 years inclusive), man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over	£0.75
7 day licence	£0.75
Juniors (10 to 13 years inclusive)	Nil

Commercial eel fishing

Fixed eel traps	£25	per trap per annum
Eel or Fyke nets	£10	per annum
Traps, putcheons or baskets	£5	per 25 (or part thereof) traps per annum

(8) That whilst no further consideration be given to the feasibility of levying fishery contributions in the Region, the possibility of obtaining income from other sources be investigated with particular reference to the policing activities of bailiffs.

(9) That the question of increasing net licence duties be deferred for further consideration.

(10) That a further review of the licence duties and licensing system be carried out in 12 months' time.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT 1975

FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

DETAILS OF LICENCE DUTIES APPLICABLE FROM 1/1/1978 ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

ROD AND LINE (Whole Area)	£
Salmon and Migratory Trout	
Season	15.60
* Part season to May 31	7.80
* Part season from June 1	9.00
Season junior (14-16 years inclusive, man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	6.50
* Part season junior to May 31 (14-16 years inclusive, man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	3.25
* Part season junior from June 1 (14-16 years inclusive, man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	4.00
Seven days	2.60

A licence marked * will entitle the holder to fish for eels, non-migratory trout (brown, rainbow and char) and freshwater fish for the whole of the respective season.

Non-migratory Trout (Brown, Rainbow and Char)	
Season	2.60
Season junior (14-16 years inclusive, man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	1.25
Seven days	0.65

Freshwater Fish and Eels

Season	1.25
Season junior (14-16 years inclusive, man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	0.65
Seven days	0.35

ROD AND LINE (area within the boundaries of the former
Mersey and Weaver River Authority)

Freshwater Fish and Eels

Season	0.65
Season junior (14-16 years inclusive, man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	0.35

NOTE: Children aged 13 years and under will not
be required to pay a duty for rod and line
licence for any of the foregoing categories.

NETS AND FIXED ENGINES (area within the boundaries of
the former Cumberland River Authority)

Whole Area Drift, Hang or Whammel Net (not exceeding when wet 275 metres in length)	78.00
River Eden Draw, Draft or Seine Net (not exceeding when wet 275 metres in length)	195.00
River Esk (Border) Draw, Draft or Seine Net (not exceeding when wet 275 metres in length)	65.00
Whole Area Heave or Haaf Net	16.90
River Eden Coop	117.00
River Derwent Coop	260.00
South West Cumberland Garth	130.00

NETS (area within the boundaries of the former
Lancashire River Authority)

River Ribble Drift, Hang or Whammel Net (not exceeding when wet 140 metres in length)	52.00
River Lune Drift, Hang or Whammel Net (not exceeding when wet 300 metres in length)	104.00
River Lune, Draw, Draft or Seine Net (not exceeding when wet 185 metres in length)	91.00
River Duddon Draw, Draft or Seine Net (not exceeding when wet 185 metres in length)	71.50

River Lune Heave or Haaf Net

39.00

River Kent Lave Net

39.00

River Leven Lave Net

32.50

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

EDEN AND DISTRICT
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10TH JANUARY 1978

REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES STUDY

1. In the Autumn of 1976, after considering a "Report on Alternative Water Resource Developments", the Authority decided that the next stage of the work related to regional water resource development should comprise engineering and environmental studies on a short-list of four possible schemes, in full consultation with local authorities and other interested bodies.
2. The four possible schemes selected by the Authority were as follows:-

Hellifield Reservoir
Borrow Beck Reservoir
Enlargement of the existing Haweswater Reservoir
Estuarial Storage in Morecambe Bay.
3. In selecting these schemes for further study, the Authority recognised the need for full awareness of the impact of any new source on the environment generally, and on local interests in particular. Consequently, the Authority embarked on a major study for a full analysis and evaluation of the environmental impact of each short-listed scheme.
4. As part of the study it is essential that the Authority obtain advice on the fishery implications of the alternative schemes. It is suggested therefore that a group of members of this Committee should be established for informal consultation purposes. Such arrangements would, in fact, be similar to those agreed by the Committee in 1975 as part of the preliminary technical appraisal of a larger number of schemes.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYEDEN AND DISTRICT
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE10TH JANUARY 1978SALMON FISHING - CLOSE SEASON

1. The Committee will recall that under Byelaw 18 of the former Cumberland River Authority's Fisheries Byelaws the close season for net fishing for salmon in the Solway, so far as haaf nets were concerned, was the period commencing on 10th September and ending on 10th February following. The Authority's original proposals for amended fishery byelaws included a recommendation that this close season should be the period from 1st September to the last day of February, both dates inclusive. As a result of objections by certain haaf netters, a compromise solution was agreed, whereby the close season should run from 11th September to the last day of February, both dates inclusive. The close season for rod fishing for salmon remained the same, namely from 15th October to 14th January, both dates inclusive.
2. A few days before the meeting of the Committee on 18th October last, a letter was received from the Secretary of the Solway Haaf Net Fisheries Association in which a number of points were raised. One of these concerned a resolution by the Association to the effect that, in the interests of conservation, and in view of the agreement by haaf netsmen to extend their close season by 18 days, the rod fishermen in the North West Water Authority Area should be requested by the Authority to extend their close season to commence on 1st October in each year. As this proposal, literally interpreted, would mean an extension of the close season by a full month on all waters in the Region except the River Eden, it is assumed that it was intended to relate to the latter river only where it would mean an extension of the close season by a fortnight.
3. It is generally accepted that fish which are available to netsmen in an estuary are not simultaneously available to rod fishermen upstream, and do not become available until a period varying according to, principally, water conditions in the river, and also to the distance upstream from the estuary to be negotiated by the fish, has elapsed. When the present byelaws were finally approved after much consultation and discussion, there had been no indication that the close season proposed for rod fishing for salmon on the Eden was in any way unreasonable or unacceptable to either rodsman or netsmen. The byelaws have been in force for only some seven months, and it would seem a little premature to be considering their revision unless extraordinary and pressing grounds should exist for such action. The Haaf Netters Association have not so far indicated that this is, in fact, the case.
4. Subject, therefore, to any arguments which may be brought forward at the meeting of the Committee it is recommended that no action should be taken upon the Association's resolution.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYEDEN AND DISTRICT
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE10TH JANUARY 1978RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGE AND
FISHERY INTERESTS

1. Concern was expressed at a recent meeting of the South Lancashire Committee at the possible effects that permitted levels of radioactivity in the sea in the west coast regions might have on migratory fish. Whilst there was no specific information available on this, the officers considered it was unlikely that the levels of radioactive substances contained in salmon and migratory trout would exceed the levels found to be present in sea fish which were regularly monitored and in which the limits in relation to radioactivity as set by the authorising bodies had never been exceeded.
2. The Authority subsequently undertook to make further enquiries about radioactive monitoring procedures (if any) used by other water authorities and arrangements were made to obtain sample fish from rivers in Lancashire and Cumbria and for the fish to be analysed at the Radiobiological Laboratory at Lowestoft.
3. Sample fish were obtained from the Duddon, Kent, Lune and Ribble catchments for analysis by the laboratory and arrangements were put in hand for further samples to be obtained from the North West Cumbria rivers and from the River Wyre.
4. Preliminary results for the Duddon and Kent sea trout indicated that the levels of radio-isotopes in the fish were well within the internationally recognised safety limits and were similar to those found in fish living permanently within the area.
5. Collection of samples of fish for analysis at the Fisheries Radiobiological Laboratory, Lowestoft, has been continued. Sea trout have now been obtained from the Border Esk, Ehen, Calder and Derwent, in addition to those reported previously.
6. A report has been received from Lowestoft on some of the samples submitted earlier in the year. The only gamma-emitting radionuclides detected were caesium-137 and caesium-134, plus the naturally occurring potassium-40. (The two former originate from Windscale.)

Concentrations of these radionuclides in sea trout muscle were:

River Duddon:	caesium-137	19.9 pCi per g wet weight
	caesium-134	1.7 pCi per g wet weight
	potassium-40	3.1 pCi per g wet weight
River Kent:	caesium-137	12.7 pCi per g wet weight
	caesium-134	1.2 pCi per g wet weight
	potassium-40	3.3 pCi per g wet weight

For comparison the figures obtained for muscle from flounders taken at Flookburgh were: caesium-137: 15.8 \pm 3.5 pCi per g wet weight: caesium-134: 2.0 \pm 0.5 pCi per g wet weight.

7. The Fisheries Radiobiological Laboratory comments as follows:-

"To put the results in radiological perspective, the acceptable daily intake (International Commission on Radiological Protection) is 30,000 pCi for caesium-137 and 13,000 for caesium-134. Therefore assuming that a member of the public eats 2 lb of trout flesh every week of the year, at the concentrations of fish from the Duddon, then the estimated radiation dose he/she receives is approximately 10% of that considered acceptable by international authorities."

8. Further results are expected from the Radiobiological Laboratory in the near future and they will be reported to Committee when they are available.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

EDEN AND DISTRICT
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10TH JANUARY, 1977

CASTLE CARROCK RESERVOIR
POSSIBLE ACCESS OF PUBLIC FOR ANGLING

1. At their meeting on 14th November, 1977, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee recommended (Minute No. 29) "That all possible steps be taken to expedite the opening of Castle Carrock Reservoir for public angling". This recommendation was noted by the Water Management Committee on 28th November, 1977.
2. The possibilities of opening this reservoir for public angling are currently being explored by officers of the Authority who hope to formulate suitable recommendations regarding angling at Castle Carrock Reservoir in the near future.
3. A further report will be submitted to the April meeting of the Committee.

EDEN AND DISTRICT
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10TH JANUARY, 1978

REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON
FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

1. RIVER CONDITIONS AND FISHING

- (i) In September 1977 changeable weather with frequent showers following a wet start to the month kept all rivers above normal levels until the last week. During the first week of October, heavy rain fell and all rivers rose again to almost flood level and frequent showers during the second week again kept rivers above normal. However, levels dropped over the next two weeks and by the end of October they were clear and running at medium height. November was also dominated by changeable weather following very heavy rain at the beginning of the month and flood levels were maintained almost until the end of the period, although a final period of dry frosty weather brought a rapid fall in December. With the consistently high water levels some excellent runs of salmon came into both the Eden and Esk in September and as they became well spread out in October good catches were made on all reaches. The best catches were on the Esk where 225 salmon were reported taken in October. On the Eden in the last two weeks of the season 33 salmon were reported taken.
- (ii) Sea trout fishing in the River Eden has been disappointing this year and showed no sign of improvement towards the end of the season. However, on the Border Esk a good many catches of over 30 fish were reported in early September before the fish moved up into the spawning streams; they seemed to be present in exceptionally good numbers.
- (iii) Brown trout catches in September were distinctly poor on the Border Esk, and on the middle and lower Eden; indeed it seemed that most trout fishermen had lost enthusiasm by the latter part of the season. Only from the upper Eden, the Eamont and Ullswater were there consistent reports of reasonable success.
- (iv) Coarse fishing matches were held each weekend on most of the available stretches of the Eden and Esk, in spite of predominantly unsuitable river conditions; the best individual weight, 16.25 lbs. from the Lower Eden, indicates inevitably disappointing catches.

2. HOLMWRANGLE HATCHERY

(i) Staffing

On 14th November the new Hatchery Manager, Mr. I. Partington, commenced his duties. His previous post was that of assistant manager at 'Test Valley' Trout Farm. Another member of staff, Mr. N. Fickling, a temporary Hatchery trainee began work at the Hatchery on 16th November. He will be employed at the Hatchery until 11th January, 1978. Prior to these two appointments all Hatchery duties had been carried out by the Water Bailiffs since the departure earlier in the year of Mr. Short.

(ii) Stock Management

There have been no unduly high mortalities during the period. The only mortalities of note which have occurred began in Mid-November in the 1974 Brown Trout. Not all stocks have been affected but the mortalities began when the water temperature dropped. The fish were showing signs of Furunculosis (a disease which normally will not occur when the water temperature is at the level prevailing at Holmwrangle Hatchery at this time of year). There were other symptoms associated with external parasites, but such parasites themselves were not in evidence. The fish were however treated orally as if this disease had been confirmed, although difficulties were encountered in administering the treatment owing to the fishes' lack of appetite due to the low temperature. Some improvement occurred but official confirmation of the disease is still awaited.

(iii) Feeding

The feeding of stock has varied constantly over the past weeks owing to the fluctuation in water temperatures, and the fishes' growth rate. Growth rates have been good in the majority of cases, one group of Rainbow Trout achieving a 100% weight increase in a 30 day period.

(iv) Building and Alterations

Over the past months alterations have been carried out to the brick troughs. Angled outlet screening has been installed in these troughs which will enable a better water circulation in them. The problem of gas bubble disease will, it is hoped, have been eliminated by the use of an aeration pump in the inlet mixing chamber.

(v) Stripping

Fish stripping began on 27th October, 1977. There has been some shortage of good milting sea trout. The Rainbow Trout proved difficult to strip, owing, in the main, to their weight for this time of year. To date there have been few salmon received at the Hatchery due to the recent high water in the rivers; all the fish so far have been electro-fished and have tended to suffer accordingly, showing signs of deterioration in their health within a short period of time after catching. These signs are mainly with slipped - or dislocated backs and darkening over parts of their bodies. (Head and Caudal Peduncle and Fin.)

Totals obtained to date:-

Border Esk Sea Trout	..	..	..	218,000 ova
Rainbow Trout	...	..	..	24,000 ova
Northumberland Sea Trout	..	..	..	375,000 ova
Eden Salmon	..	..	..	55,000 ova

(vi) Eyed Ova on order

Salmon	..	100,000	for delivery	January-February	1978
Salmon	..	300,000	for delivery	January-February	1978
Brown Trout		80,000	for delivery	January-February	1978

(vii) Total Stocks of Fish

1977	Rainbow Trout	..	..	..	592
1976	Wye Salmon	..	..	..	548
1976	Eden Salmon	..	..	..	623
1977	Brown Trout	..	..	..	14,502
1977	Northumberland Sea Trout	..			8,080
1977	Kincardine Salmon	..	..		14,000
1977	Eden Salmon	..	..	..	650
1974	Northumberland Sea Trout	..			140
1975	Rainbow Trout	..	..	..	72
1975	Northumberland Sea Trout	..			650
1976	Brown Trout	..	..	..	17,000

3. STOCKING BY ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS ETC.

- (1) On 19th September, 2,000 Fingerling Brown Trout and 750 Sea Trout fed fry from Holmwrangle Hatchery were stocked into Wiza Beck, near Wigton. Costs were borne by British Sidac Limited in compensation for a loss of fish last autumn by accidental pollution.

- (2) Consent has been given for the introduction of 100 common Carp fingerlings from Cotswold Carp Farm into a private pool near Houghton.

4. FISH DISEASE

Although individual fish with symptoms of Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis (UDN) disease have been noticed in all rivers it has appeared far less serious than in any year since the present outbreak started.

5. SURVEY WORK

- (1) Upper Eden and Eamont Brown Trout Survey

At the end of its first full season we have now received full catch returns and scale samples from virtually all of the 20 anglers participating in this survey. This response is most encouraging and would appear to bode well for the future prospects of this long-term project.

- (2) In response to a request from the National Trust it has been agreed that staff will carry out a brief gill netting survey on Brotherswater in December, with a view to assessing the abundance and growth rates of the resident trout.

6. CONSULTATION WITH OUTSIDE INTERESTS

On 1st December the Principal Fisheries Assistant attended a meeting called by the National Trust to discuss with local interested parties the future development and control of Brotherswater as a trout fishery.

7. COLLECTION OF FISH FOR HATCHERIES

The persistently high water levels rendered the fish traps at Brougham and Askham ineffective and greatly hampered electric fishing operations. In spite of persistent efforts the only successful days' electric fishing were on the Border Esk at the end of October when 208 sea trout and 10 salmon were taken, and on the River Lowther in the middle of November when 7 hen and 4 cock salmon were taken. All these fish were taken to Holmwrangle Hatchery for stripping.

8. REDD COUNTING

The annual redd count finally got under way in the second week of December and with reasonably low water levels should prove fairly accurate for late redds. Many of the early redds, however, will have been obscured by gravel movement as a result of the high flows.

9. TRANSFER OF COARSE FISH

The Bollington and Royal Oak Angling Club from Macclesfield removed 24 dace and 14 chub weighing a total of 30 lbs. to their waters in Macclesfield following a fishing match on the Border Esk near Canonbie on 6th November. The exercise was supervised by the Authority's fisheries staff.